



# Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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September, 1988

## REPORT FROM THE ACTING CONFERENCE MINISTER

A new day is dawning for our Southeast Conference. Under the dynamic leadership of Ms. Barbara Everett, our Conference Moderator, the Board of Directors is moving forward with a positive attitude.

Our new Conference Minister, the Rev. Roger Knight, who won't be living in Atlanta until September, has come down from Minneapolis at his own expense to offer his leadership to us during this critical period.

It is hard to find adequate words of appreciation to the Rev. Dr. Horace Sills for his coming to us in our darkest hour and serving as our Interim Conference Minister. In six months Horace accomplished over a year's work, focusing on both our immediate and long-term needs. His experience of over 20 years as Conference Minister in Pennsylvania and before that as regional director for the old Town and Country Department (before OCLL) breathed fresh life into ol' Southeast Conference.

It is my hope that we will all join together with unity of purpose and build the kind of conference that will be pleasing and acceptable by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Warren Blankenhorn,  
Acting Conference Minister

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## AMBASSADORS ARE COMING

A new thing is happening in the Southeast Conference. Beginning in September, two persons will be visiting each local church to talk about the needs of the Southeast Conference as well as the needs of the local church. Aware that we are all related to each other as members of the United Church of Christ, these leaders hope to share the good news and challenge each local church to increase its awareness of the mission of the church both here in the

Southeast and all across the world.

This plan for visitation of each church offers us fresh possibilities for new beginnings as we prepare for the coming of the Rev. Roger Knight as Conference Minister. Many feel that we are on the way to deepening our understanding of what it means to be the community of faith in the Southeast Conference as well as strengthening the resources which are greatly needed.

## FROM THE EDITOR

The Southeast News is back. In the weeks to come, we will be considering our format for the future, as well as setting a regular schedule for publication, complete with deadlines for announcements, articles and calendar items.

From the first, though, I want to stress your importance to the success of SN. Only if YOU provide us with the news about your congregation, association or committee, can we spread that news and make this a useful, interesting newsletter.

Sending articles and announcements need not be a big bother. Sometimes pieces already prepared for your local newsletter or for a letter to committee members can simply be "lifted" for use here. Material need not be camera-ready, but should have complete details and need as little rewriting as possible. A notation of dates between which you would like it published can also be helpful.

We want to include everything which you would like to tell others about, or

which you would like to hear about. But please let us know in writing; don't ask me or Kathy or anyone else to remember to put something in. Your written material can be kept in a much more secure file than our memories.

Until we establish our schedules, just send everything you can as soon as you can, to:

SOUTHEAST NEWS  
c/o SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE UCC  
PO BOX 29883  
ATLANTA, GA 30359

or  
SOUTHEAST NEWS  
c/o PILGRIMAGE UCC  
3755 SANDY PLAINS ROAD  
MARIETTA, GA 30066

Lastly, yes, I did agree to this job "even though we don't pay anything for it," as someone wrote in the New News Letter (number three and last). But it's not so bad: I was promised that the compensation would double within just a few years, and it's sure easy to calculate cost-of-living increases.

G. Mark Cole  
Editor

### SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

October 7-9, 1988

#### "COVENANTAL CARING FOR THE FUTURE"

**Keynote Speaker:** The Rev. Barbara Greer  
Associate Conference Minister  
Missouri Conference, United Church of Christ

**Music Leader:** Ms. Beth Knight, Specialist in Church Music

**New Location:** Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center  
United Methodist Church, N. GA. Conference  
4511 Jones Bridge Circle, NW, Norcross, GA 30071  
(404) 441-1111

**Honored Guests:** The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Roger Knight  
(Roger Knight is Conference Minister Nominee of the  
Southeast Conference. Beth Knight is a national church  
leader in music.)

The Choir, Rush Memorial Church  
Mr. Ralph Smith, Director  
Concert: Friday evening

The Fall Retreat is for all ages: youth, young women, retirees, mid-lifers, clergy spouses

For all aspects of life: Spiritual renewal, programming in the local church, living in the sandwich generation, Bible study, children and poverty, homelessness, singing and the Church, global issues, wellness.

The retreat begins with supper at 6:00 p.m. October 7th and closes with dinner October 9th

In order to help with the SE Conference's OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) we are asking each person who comes to bring either a handmade article or some item from their home which they are willing to donate for a silent auction. Let your imagination reign and bring one or several items to help the SE Conference budget. We will explain how it works when you arrive. It promises to be lots of fun.

#### Registration Application

Southeast Conference  
Fall Women's Retreat  
United Church of Christ

Registration Deadline: September 21, 1988

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Local Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to:  
Southeast Conference, UCC

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fee Enclosed

Mail to: Ms. M. Emerson, Registrar

Please check your housing choice and give roommate preference if any

\_\_\_\_\_ \$74.00 - 2 in a room (2 double beds), meals, registration fee

\_\_\_\_\_ \$69.00 - 4 in a room (2 double beds), meals, registration fee

(Motel-type rooms, linens furnished, lovely, modern)

Choice of Roommates \_\_\_\_\_

## PILGRIM PASTORS CALLED

Two Southeast Conference congregations have called new pastors: Pilgrim Congregational in Birmingham, Alabama, and Pilgrim Congregational in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Pilgrim-Birmingham has called the Rev. Dr. Richard Winton Sales. After 30 years of service as a missionary (mostly in Africa) with the Board for World Ministries, Rev. Sales came to the Southeast Conference in 1986 as Theological Extension Organizer for the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta. He has served twice as Interim Pastor: at Pilgrim-Birmingham from July of 1987 through January of this year, and at Pilgrim-Chattanooga since that time. He holds degrees from Oberlin College, Chicago Theological Seminary, and the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Pilgrim-Chattanooga has called the Rev. James Lee Smalley, Jr. Rev. Smalley served fourteen years in education at Northfield, Massachusetts and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and subsequently has been Pastor of United Church of Christ Congregations in Rockwell and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. A graduate of Richmond Academy in Augusta, Georgia, he holds degrees from the University of North Carolina, Andover-Newton Theological School, and Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

We pray for the ministries of these congregations and their new pastors; may they be blessed with vigor and meaning.

### Welcome to our New Conference Minister

The Southeast Conference would like to extend a warm welcome to Roger and Beth Knight.

Our prayers are with you as you begin your ministry in the Southeast Conference. We open our hearts and our homes to you in celebration of our new beginning together.

Please call or write to extend a personal welcome to the Knight's. They are residing at:

263 Skyland Drive, Roswell, GA 30075  
Home Phone - (404) 552-1321

A personal interview with the Rev. Roger D. Knight will be in our next newsletter.

*The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
and  
The Georgia/South Carolina Association of the  
Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ  
request your presence  
for*

#### *THE CELEBRATION OF THE INSTALLATION of*

*The Reverend Fredrick LeRoy Nixon, Minister-Elect  
on*

*the ninth of October  
nineteen hundred and eighty-eight  
four o'clock in the afternoon*

*The First Congregational Church, U.C.C.  
Savannah, Georgia*

*"The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed  
me to preach good news to the poor." (Luke 4:18)*

*Friday, October 7, 1988 - 7:30 p.m.  
A Concert of Sacred Music - Reverend Fredrick L. Nixon*

*Saturday, October 8, 1988 - 1:00 p.m.  
Installation Luncheon - Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Donation: \$35.00 per person  
SPEAKER: The Honorable Andrew J. Young  
Mayor: Atlanta, Georgia*

#### *Sunday, October 9, 1988 INSTALLATION DAY OF CELEBRATION*

*11:00 a.m.*

*Service of Worship*

*SPEAKER: The Reverend Arthur Langford, Jr.  
State Senator, 35th Senatorial District  
Minister: Rush Memorial Congregational Church,  
U.C.C., Atlanta, Georgia*

*4:00 p.m.*

*Service of Installation*

*SPEAKER: The Reverend Dr. A. Knighton Stanley  
Senior Minister: Peoples Congregational United  
Church of Christ, Washington, D.C.*

## MEMORIAM

Hubert Richter died in August. A leader of St. John's UCC in Cullman, Alabama, his many roles of leadership included service as Moderator and on the Search Committee for the Southeast Conference. Hubert always gave willingly and faithfully of himself. He will be missed.

Programs for People is a new organization . . . AND, a new book. Here is a resource for program ideas that relate to topics of concern for Christians such as Peace, Relationships, AIDS, Ecology, Self-Esteem, Community, Forgiveness, Communication, Affirmation, and others. This collection of activities, games, songs, stories, readings and skits, complete with suggested ways to use them, is the first in a series. Written by UCC member Glenn Wallace, it is available for \$4.50 from: 269 Whitney Place, Buffalo, NY 14201

The Christian Education Commission of the Southeast Conference announces a Marriage Retreat October 21-22 at Rock Ridge Assembly Grounds near Franklin, Georgia.

This will be an excellent opportunity to improve communication skills and view the Biblical Model of the excitement and power in a Christian Marriage. (This will also be of help to ministers who would like to improve their skills as a counselor.)

Space is limited and is on a first-come basis. To register, send the fee of \$65+tax per couple for one night's lodging and four meals, to Rev. Herb Young, PO Box 155, Valley, AL 36854. Also, please specify whether 2 or 4 to a room.

No reservations will be made by phone, but you can get more information by calling Langdale Congregational Christian Church 205-756-2335 or 756-6625.

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

"We are one in the Spirit. . ." go the words of a familiar hymn that speaks especially to us as members of the United Church of Christ.

We are one people when we receive the Neighbors in Need offering in congregations from coast to coast. Many local churches receive the Neighbors in Need offering on World Communion Sunday (October 2, 1988), a day of Christian unity.

Through Neighbors in Need, all of us are one in the Spirit with the disadvantaged children and victimized adults in our midst. Our combined gifts support ministries of compassion and hope, advocacy and witness with our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Who is my neighbor? This year's NIN offering is intended to reach specific groups, including American Indian communities, children who are poor, people who contract AIDS, innocent victims of hate groups, people who live in welfare hotels, the homeless poor, and the victims of sexual and domestic violence and their families.

Please give as generously as you are able to the Neighbors in Need offering this year.



**OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MINISTRY  
MID-YEAR REPORTS**

Every congregation has received a form to use in reporting their intended OCWM giving for the remainder of 1988: how much they expect to give, and on what schedule.

This is very important for the future of our Conference.

As our new Conference Minister arrives, we need an accurate sense of the funds to expect over the next several months.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

If you have already returned the form, THANKS. If your form has been misplaced, please either contact the Conference office for another or send the information in a letter.

This is also a good time to check on your church's giving thus far in 1988. Has it been credited properly? How does it compare to 1987? The following chart indicates the figures through the end of July. If you believe any are incorrect, please contact Kathy Martin at the Conference office.

Our Church's Wider Ministry provides our Conference with the funds necessary to its operation. Your church's contributions are essential in order for us all to share in a meaningful ministry.

As always, keep the Southeast Conference, our Minister, staff and committees in your prayers as we grow together in service.

<u>CHURCH NAME</u>	<u>1987 OCWM</u>	<u>1988 TO DATE</u>	<u>1988 PLEDGE</u>
<u>Alabama-Tennessee Association</u>			
Alpine, King's Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Athens, Trinity	\$0.00	\$210.00	
Belvidere, First UCC	\$6,004.10	\$3,504.40	
Birmingham, First CC	\$4,028.40	\$1,957.78	
Birmingham, Pilgrim	\$5,280.00	\$4,070.53	
Chattanooga, First CC	\$357.00	\$0.00	
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	\$16,180.00	\$13,450.00	
Crossville, Good Shepherd	\$2,290.00	\$1,860.00	\$1750-Special Offer.
Cullman, St. John's	\$8,100.00	\$6,075.00	\$8,100.00
Daisy, First CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Dear Lodge Congregational	\$1,200.00	\$600.00	
Fairfield Glade Community Ch.	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Garden City CC	\$462.00	\$231.00	\$460.60
Glen Mary CC	\$400.00	\$0.00	
Huntsville United Church	\$6,600.00	\$4,400.00	\$6,600.00
Knoxville, Ch. of the Savior	\$1,485.00	\$0.00	\$1,707.75
Marion, First	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Montgomery, First	\$2,300.00	\$600.00	\$2,500.00
Nashville, Brookmeade	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Nashville, First United	\$3,000.00	\$1,750.00	\$3,000.00
Nashville, Howard UCC	\$440.00	\$400.00	\$500.00
Pleasant Hill Community Ch.	\$14,000.00	\$7,500.00	
Robbins, Barton Chapel	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Sweetwater, First UCC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Talladega, First Congregational	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Tougaloo, Union Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	

<u>CHURCH NAME</u>	<u>1987 OCWM</u>	<u>1988 TO DATE</u>	<u>1988 PLEDGE</u>
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Central Alabama Association

East Tallapoosa CC	\$245.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Eclectic, Watson's Chapel	\$21.50	\$100.00	\$100.00

East Alabama Association

Alexander City, First CC	\$480.00	\$320.00	
Columbus, United CC	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$500.00
Dadeville, Elder UCC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Five Points, State Line CC	\$85.00	\$0.00	
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove CC	\$725.00	\$525.00	
LaGrange, Hillside Christian	\$0.00	\$244.00	\$244.00
LaGrange, United CC	\$1,852.00	\$1,155.00	
Lanett CC	\$6,266.00	\$5,263.00	\$6,000.00
Lanett, Pine Forest CC	\$833.00	\$693.00	
Lineville, New Harmony CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Phenix City, Russell Woods CC	\$1,200.00	\$600.00	
Pine Mountain, Oak Grove CC	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Pisgah Congregational Christian	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Roanoke, Antioch CC	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
Roanoke, Bethany (Lime)	\$350.00	\$0.00	
Roanoke, First CC	\$750.00	\$750.00	
Roanoke, Forest Home Christian	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Roanoke, North Main CC	\$400.00	\$275.00	
Roanoke, Mt. Zion CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Roanoke, New Hope CC	\$600.00	\$600.00	
Roanoke, Rock Spring CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Roanoke, Rock Stand CC	\$600.00	\$600.00	
Valley, Langdale CC	\$3,723.00	\$3,087.00	\$5,290.56
Valley, Todd CC	\$670.00	\$670.00	
Wadley, Beulah CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Wadley, Corinth CC	\$100.00	\$200.00	
Wedowee, Cavers Grove CC	\$50.00	\$0.00	
Wedowee, Noon Day CC	\$450.00	\$200.00	
West Point, Bethel CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Woodbury, Jones Chapel	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00

Georgia-South Carolina Association

Atlanta, Atlanta UCC	\$503.12	\$800.00	
Atlanta, Carroll Heights	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Atlanta, Central	\$19,500.00	\$12,350.00	\$18,525.00
Atlanta, First	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Atlanta, Rush Memorial	\$500.00	\$0.00	
Barnesville, Fredonia	\$150.00	\$0.00	
Beachton, Evergreen	\$150.00	\$0.00	
Brazelton, Macedonia	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Buford, Duncan's Creek CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Charleston, Circular	\$5,000.04	\$1,999.98	\$4,000.00
Charleston, Plymouth	\$1,035.00	\$2,333.00	\$1,138.50
Demorest, Federated	\$420.00	\$321.00	
Dewey Ross, Liberty	\$845.00	\$830.00	
Jonesboro, Trinity	\$5,550.00	\$4,500.00	\$6,000.00
Lilburn, Button Gwinnett	\$900.00	\$450.00	\$900.00

**CHURCH NAME****1987 OCWM****1988 TO DATE****1988 PLEDGE**

Macon, First	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Marietta, Pilgrim	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Midway Congregational	\$400.00	\$400.00	
Savannah, First	\$1,116.00	\$0.00	
Thomasville, Bethany	\$300.00	\$300.00	

**North Alabama Association**

Arley Congregational Christian	\$40.40	\$0.00	
Hackleburg, Fairview CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Haleyville, Union Grove	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Hanceville, Mountain Grove CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Houston, Liberty Hill CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Moulton, Jones Chapel	\$125.00	\$0.00	
Steele, Mount Lebanon CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Town Creek, Old Liberty Grove	\$200.00	\$240.00	
Trinity, First CC at Caddo	\$1,200.00	\$900.00	

**South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association**

Andalusia, Antioch CC	\$2,000.00	\$700.00	\$2,150.00
Andalusia, First CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Baker, Good Hope CC	\$400.00	\$0.00	
Baker, Pyron Chapel CC	\$300.00	\$100.00	
Bonifay, New Effort CC	\$50.00	\$0.00	
Brantley, Indian Creek CC	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Brantley, Liberty	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Clio, New Hope	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Headland, Blackwood CC	\$615.00	\$235.00	

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Saturday, September 17  
ATLANTA-AREA STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP  
at Central Congregational, Atlanta  
from 10:00 to 3:00

Saturday, September 17  
ALATENN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
at First United Church of Christ, Sweetwater

Saturday, October 1  
NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
at Arley Congregational Christian

Sunday, October 2  
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING in most congregations

Friday-Sunday, October 7-9  
SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT  
Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, Georgia

Saturday, October 8  
SOUTH ALABAMA - WEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 15  
EAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
at Lanett Congregational Christian

Sunday, October 16  
CENTRAL ALABAMA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
at Watson's Chapel, Eclectic

Friday-Saturday, October 21-2  
MARRIAGE RETREAT  
at Rock Ridge Assembly Grounds, Franklin, Georgia

Friday-Saturday, October 21-2  
GEORGIA - SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
at Bethany Congregational, Thomasville

Friday-Saturday, November 18-19  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
at Central Congregational, Atlanta  
Friday: 6:00 Dinner, 7:00 Meeting  
Saturday: Adjourn by noon

Saturday, November 19  
INSTALLATION OF ROGER KNIGHT AS CONFERENCE MINISTER

Monday-Wednesday, May 8-10, 1989  
MINISTERS' AND SPOUSES' RETREAT  
at Rock Ridge Assembly Grounds, Franklin, Georgia

Southeast Conference  
United Church of Christ  
PO Box 29883  
Atlanta, GA 30359

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